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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Haiti

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, February 28, 1947

UNCLASSIFIED

No. 323

Subject: Transmitting English Language Translation of
Haitian Constitution, as Revised and Published
in Le Moniteur (No. 123) of December 23, 1946.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

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Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 38 of October 12, 1946, entitled "Transmission of English Translation of Proposed 1946 Haitian Constitution", with enclosures appended (File 801.1), and to my airgram A-450 of December 30, 1946 to the effect that, upon promulgation of the Constitution, the phraseology, numbering of many articles and in some cases the text were found to have been altered in a degree that made it practicable for the Embassy to effect a completely new translation. This new translation is attached for the Department's assistance. It will be recalled that copies of Le Moniteur, containing the complete French text of the Constitution, as promulgated, were submitted to the Department under cover of despatch No. 202 of December 27, 1946.

The following comment is offered at this time bearing on certain articles of the Constitution which appear to be of immediate interest to the Department:

Article 1 - The Island of Navassa (reference Department's A-240 of October 4, 1946) is still claimed by the Haitian Government.

Article 7 - Naturalized Haitians may not enjoy full political rights until 10 years from date of naturalization. Even then they do not have all of the rights which a Haitian of origin possesses. (See Article 18 farther on.)

Article 10 - Resident foreigners may own but one residential building in the same locality and may not engage in the rental of property. The foreigner residing in Haiti may own real property, as may foreign companies, when required for the needs of agricultural, commercial industrial or educational enterprises "within the limits and conditions to be determined by law". This right of ownership, however, shall terminate after 2 years if the

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A printed copy of the Constitution in French
files in State REF - B
342.7294
T 1762
This English seems to be
a rather free translation.

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